



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 11/23/2004**

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2004**

**Present:** Paul Schlichtman, Chair  
Jeff Thielman, Vice Chair  
Martin Thrope, Secretary  
Barbara Goodman  
Joani LaMachia  
Suzanne Owayda  
Sue Sheffler

**CFO:** Rob Addelson  
**Asst. Supt.** Joanne Gurry  
**Sp. Ed. Director:** Marilyn Bisbicos

**Absent:** Superintendent Kay Donovan

**Call to order:** 7:35 PM

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

### **CAPITAL PLAN APPROVAL/ REPORT ON DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

CFO Rob Addelson requested approval from the School Committee on the FY 2006-2010 recommended Capital Plan and for authorization to submit it to the Town's Capital Planning Committee.

Steve Mazzola, APS Director of Technology, reported on the data management system. Steve explained that the current system (The Guardian System) was purchased by the APS more than 15 years ago. It currently maintains information on each student that is needed to comply with DOE reporting requirements as well as data for administrative use. Guardian has been out of business for a number of years, the system is written in a computer language that is no longer used in the industry making modifications and documentation difficult to maintain. A working group convened to develop and review criteria needed for a new system which includes that; the new company have a major presence in Massachusetts, been in the student information business for a number of years and meet certain technical criteria. Currently four out of the five companies applying have given presentations. The goal is to cut this number to two and recommend them both to the Superintendent and School Committee. Mr. Mazzola noted that the company chosen will, be state approved, be capable of generating all necessary reports, be able to maintain data bases of medical issues, and improve the scheduling system at the Ottoson Middle School and at Arlington High School.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously  
Voted to approve the APS FY2006-2010 Recommended Capital Plan to the Capital Budget Committee.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Owayda  
The following items on the Consent agenda were approved 7-0

- \*Approval of the regular meeting minutes of October 26, 2004
- \*Second reading: Policy CBI Evaluation of the Superintendent
- \*Second reading: Policy CBI-E Superintendent Evaluation Tool

- \*Second reading: Policy ECB Buildings and Ground Maintenance
- \*Second reading: Policy EEAA Safe Travel Policy, Walkers and Riders
- \*Second reading: Policy EF Food Services Management
- \*Second reading: Policy FA/FB/FBB Facilities Planning Enrollment Projections

### **UPDATE ON COORDINATED REVIEW**

Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry gave an update on the coordinated review. Dr. Gurry explained that every 6 years school systems must undergo such a review. The Department of Education (DOE) conducts the review on behalf of the Federal Government. Phase 1, the documentation process is complete. The Asst. Supt. reviewed the District Profile of Effective Programs and Practices and also the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan. The review will take place January 10<sup>th</sup> through January 14<sup>th</sup> consisting of a team of 6 who will interview parents, administration, teachers, and school personnel. The exit interview will take place on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The initial report should be received in twenty days and the district will have time to review and make any corrections. The final report is received shortly thereafter.

### **COMMITTEE VOTES**

#### **Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen**

The Committee discussed what should be addressed at the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen. A lengthy discussion followed on the type of document to be presented and specifically the draft reports prepared by Ms. Sheffler (Quantifying the Education Structural Deficit in Arlington, the Municipal Yardstick, and the Educational Service Level comparison). The Committee did not want to present an official document from the School Committee or any type of a position paper. It was suggested that CFO Rob Addelson and Sue Sheffler work together to prepare a document that outlines a structural deficit but does not include any solutions.

Mr. Addelson pointed out that since the administration had not yet prepared or proposed a budget to the school committee that a statement be presented to point out the factors that need to be considered for the FY06 school budget, i.e. contractual obligations, federal mandates, Special Education costs etc.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously

Voted to hold a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall in the Selectmen's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hearing room.

#### **Warrant Approval**

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Owayda it was

Voted to approve warrant # 05063 in the amount of \$392,249.77.

6-1-0 (abstention by Mr. Schlichtman due to conflict of payment to MASC).

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget Subcommittee**—Mr. Thielman reported that at its last meeting the subcommittee reviewed the questions for the Winter Workshop and a proposal to do research from the Municipal Benchmarking. The subcommittee will meet again on December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 3:30pm to discuss how to organize the winter workshop. The Building Maintenance and School Safety working meeting will take place at the regular school committee meeting of December 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Update on Superintendent Search**

Ms. Owayda reported that the paper screening of candidates is complete. The search committee will meet December 2<sup>nd</sup> to select the 8 semi-finalists; interviews are scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The Search Committee will select 3-4 candidates as finalists for submission to the School Committee on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>; the Policy & Procedures Subcommittee will meet on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at the Town Hall.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Correspondence reviewed by Mr. Thrope**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Schlichtman brought to the Committees' attention a request from the Director of LABBB Collaborative to waive the overnight parking permit at the Thompson School for two LABBB vehicles. The buses are driven by two Arlington residents and have had a prior arrangement with Thompson School principal, Mike McCabe.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously

Voted to waive the overnight parking permit at the Thompson School for the two LABBB schools buses as requested.

Ms. Owayda requested a report on the impact of the fee increase and student participation in the performing arts department and athletic department.

On a motion by Ms. LaMachia seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was unanimously

Voted to adjourn @ 9:25 pm.

*Submitted by  
Karen Tassone  
Committee Secretary*